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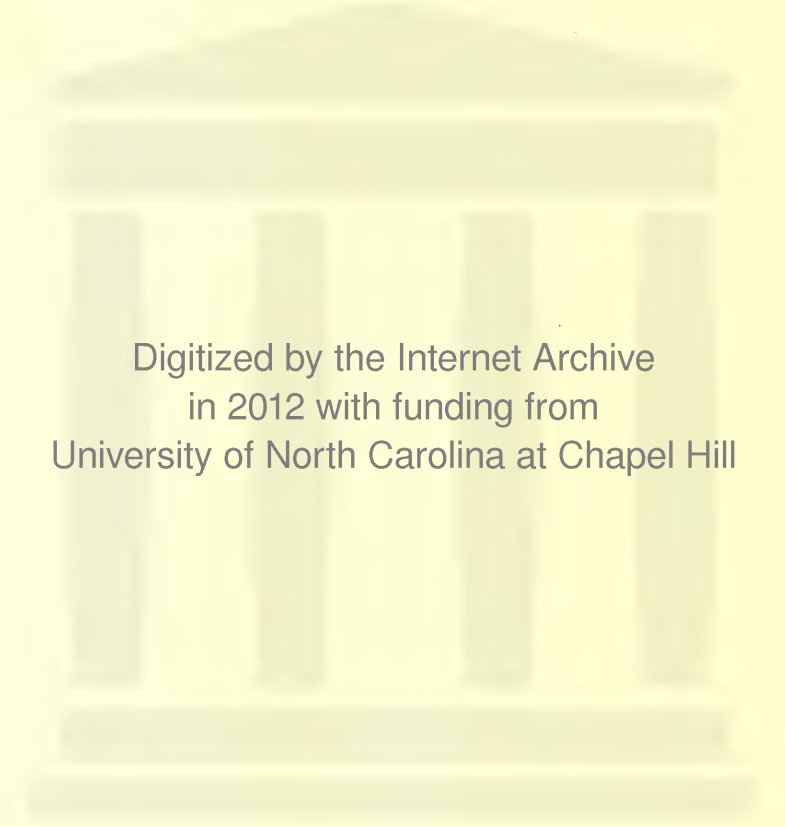

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NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS
NUMBER 24

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NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY IMPRINTS

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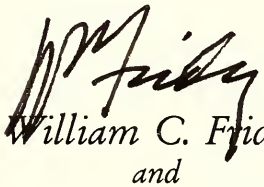
No. 24. *Chancellors Extraordinary: J. Carlyle Sitterson and LeRoy T. Walker* (1995)
by William C. Friday and Willis P. Whichard

Chancellors Extraordinary:

J. Carlyle Sitterson
and
LeRoy T. Walker

by



William C. Friday
and

Willis P. Whichard

Together with Proceedings of a Banquet on the Occasion of the Presentation of the North Caroliniana Society Awards for 1995

Chapel Hill
NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY, INC.
AND NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION
1995

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THE NORTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY AWARD

The North Caroliniana Society Award was inaugurated in 1978 to recognize individuals or organizations that have given long and distinguished service to the preservation, promotion, and enhancement of North Carolina's historical, literary, and cultural heritage. The first recipient was Paul Green, followed by Albert Coates, Sam Ervin, Sam Ragan, Gertrude Carraway, John Fries Blair, William and Ida Friday, William Powell, Mary and James Semans, David Stick, William Cochrane, Emma Neal Morrison, Burke Davis, Lawrence London, Frank Kenan, Charles Kuralt, Archie Davis, H. G. Jones, and, on its sesquicentennial, the North Carolina Collection. In earlier years, a certificate represented the award, but in 1991, through the efforts of John and Ann Sanders, the Society purchased a historic sterling silver cup to serve as the permanent award and sterling goblets for presentation to each recipient. The cup was made in London in 1924 by the silversmiths Charles and Richard Comyns for Tiffany & Company, and it served as a twenty-fifth wedding anniversary gift for Harold Jefferson Coolidge and Edith Lawrence Coolidge on 19 February 1928. Coolidge was the great-greatgrandson of Martha and Thomas Jefferson, thus adding to the historical interest of the heirloom, which is on permanent display in the Reading Room of the North Carolina Collection in the University of North Carolina's Wilson Library. Names of recipients are engraved on silver plates surrounding base of the award, which is mounted on a specially designed pedestal.

Two North Carolinians, J. Carlyle Sitterson and LeRoy T. Walker, were chosen for 1995 awards. Dr. Walker was present to accept his award, but Dr. Sitterson, whose health had been failing for several weeks, died the morning of the ceremony; his award was accepted on behalf of his family by his brother, Simon C. Sitterson, Jr. The full proceedings of the evening are published in the following pages.

[Vice-President William S. Powell introduced President Emeritus William C. Friday as follows: "If Thomas Jefferson had walked into the George Watts Hill Alumni Center this evening to recall how he wrote the Declaration of Independence, we would all recognize him at once.

"Or if George Washington should appear before us in a few minutes, perhaps to speak about how, as the first president of the United States, he got the country off to a good start, we would know him by sight.

"After our recent great UNC Bicentennial observance, we certainly would greet William R. Davie by name if he appeared on horseback at Polk Place.

"Equally as noted to North Carolinians as any of these—and truly qualified as 'too well known to need an introduction'—is our speaker whose presence demonstrates the truth of those words, so often spoken but perhaps never until this moment actually demonstrated. William C. Friday."]

LeRoy Tashreau Walker, Sr.

by William C. Friday

The early 1980s were stressful times on the campus of North Carolina Central University. The incumbent chancellor had announced his retirement; a search committee to find a successor had been appointed; the process had been allowed to run its course; two nominees had been tentatively identified. Soon divisions of opinion developed around each nominee. Meetings were held, letters were written, and tensions grew.

One morning my telephone rang and the caller inquired as to whether or not I could find time that afternoon for a visit. The caller was LeRoy T. Walker, and, of course, the appointment was made. I asked my colleague, Vice-President Raymond Dawson, to be available. After lunch, Dr. Walker and his longtime colleague, Dr. Leonard Robinson, chief academic officer at North Carolina Central, came to talk with us.

For the next hour and a half, we listened to a very clear analysis of the state of mind and the state of affairs at Central. These men, veterans of the campus, spoke in clear and forceful terms and with an uncommon sense of devotion and concern. It was an impressive performance. The conversation ended and Drs. Walker and Robinson got up to leave and we bade them good-bye.

As soon as the door closed, Dr. Dawson looked at me and I looked at him and almost in common expression we said, "There's the chancellor we need." Raymond and I decided then and there to exercise the authority we had to appoint LeRoy Walker as interim chancellor with no time limitation and to get the appointment made right away. We did; the search committee recommendations were put on hold; the board approved; he accepted; and a new day began at North Carolina Central.

But I am getting ahead of my story. LeRoy Tashreau Walker was born in Atlanta, the youngest of thirteen children, and at age nine he moved to Harlem with his brother Joe. He moved back to Atlanta for his senior year in high school and led his team to the Georgia state basketball title. When his coach took a position at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, LeRoy followed him on a scholarship. At Benedict, LeRoy became an honor student, graduating magna cum laude in three and a half

years, and he starred in basketball, track, and football, becoming an All-American quarterback as a junior. He went on to Columbia University for his master's degree.

During one summer, while helping his brother Joe finish a contracting job at Camp Butner near Durham, LeRoy met the great James E. Shepherd, the founder of North Carolina College. Dr. Shepherd became interested in the young man, and he offered LeRoy a job at the college. History shows that LeRoy had already made up his mind to finish his Ph.D., so he set a minimum salary which he felt sure would be too high for Dr. Shepherd to meet. The president stunned the young man by accepting his terms, and LeRoy Walker became head football coach and physical education instructor. "I came back [south] to stay a year and figured after a year I'd head back to New York," the coach later mused; "It got stretched out for more than four decades." (His determination to earn a doctorate was rewarded in 1957 when he received the degree from New York University.)

LeRoy obviously enjoyed coaching football and basketball, and he started a track program only as an activity to keep his football players fast and in shape during the spring. But the more he worked in track, the more committed he became. And it was after he recruited the Gold Medal-winning Olympian Lee Calhoun that track and field became a fixture at North Carolina Central.

Lefty Drizell, the legendary sports figure, once said that anybody, including Lefty, could coach track: "I just tell them to get back as soon as possible and keep turning left." Not so with LeRoy Walker. "I had fair success in all areas of coaching but I liked track best," he said. "It symbolized how you could tell the fabric of a man."

"I had only one rule—the accountability rule," Coach Walker said. "For every minute an athlete was late, he had to run a mile, but that's not quite all of it. Everybody else on the team had to run with him. That way, if the team decides your reason for being late wasn't good enough, they'd take you aside and push you into a corner and say, 'We've run our last mile for you.' The word got around."

The difficulty at Central was that Coach Walker had neither a track nor facilities adequate to develop Olympic-style athletes. This led him to a conversation with Bob Chambers of Duke University. Both teams began working out together at Duke, with Coach Walker handling sprints and hurdles and Coach Chambers the distance events. Here were two men working well together with mutual respect and appreciation, and achieving in the 1950s a truly remarkable result.

As the saying goes, the rest is history. Coach Walker's rise in

Olympic competition is a truly heroic story. From the 1960s until today, he has not only coached the teams of countries here and abroad (for example, Israel, Ethiopia, Trinidad-Tobago, Jamaica, and Kenya), but was himself in 1976 the head coach of the United States Olympic Track and Field Team in the competition at Montreal. In 1977 he became very active in the work of the United States Olympic Committee, later serving as treasurer and chairman of its budget committee; and in 1992 he was chef de mission for the Olympic Games in Barcelona. And, as we all know, today we celebrate him as president of the United States Olympic Committee in which position he directs the massive development of the Olympic competition and world games to take place in Atlanta in 1996.

How successful was he as a coach? Well, he developed 77 All-Americans, 40 national champions, and 8 Olympians. He sent competitors to every Olympic Game from 1956 to 1980, including Gold Medalists like American high-hurdler Lee Calhoun and Ethiopian marathoner Abebe Bikila.

He was the best. In all of these endeavors, he uniformly and consistently demanded discipline and self-discovery in all that he did. In his response to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina when he received the O. Max Gardner Award in 1976 for contributions to the welfare of the human race, he offered these observations:

> What a joy of effort there is in observing students, the gifted and the not-so-gifted, the typical and the atypical, discover the most precious of all possessions is the power over themselves, the power to withstand trial, to bear suffering, to front danger, power over pleasure and pain, power to follow convictions however resisted by menace and scorn, the power of calm reliance in scenes of darkness and storm.

And then he added, "Self-discovery is the end product of a great challenge mastered when the mind commands the body to do the seemingly impossible and when strength and courage are summoned to extraordinary limits for the sake of something outside of self."

I suppose that LeRoy Walker's initial and sustaining motivation came from his loving family, especially his mother, Mary, and the opportunity to work with his brother, Joe. "All of my older brothers and sisters and my mother," LeRoy once said, "were constantly on me about being attentive to things, working hard and believing that if you did, you could be somebody." That grew into this statement of personal philosophy: "Don't expect that people are going to give you things in life and that you're going to get entitlements for all of your life. You have got to work and prepare yourself and that helped me realize my own definition

of luck which is preparation and opportunity."

Here are some LeRoy Walkerisms:

¶"I believe in the four Fs of coaching: I am fair, firm, and friendly. If that doesn't work, then its farewell."

¶"Sports itself cannot be the end of life, and sports are neither good nor bad; its people that make it so."

¶And, as only a track mentor would observe, "No jackass ever won the Kentucky Derby."

These experiences, encounters, challenges, and events that carried him in and out of stadiums and coliseums and countries all over the world made LeRoy Walker an obvious choice to be a member of the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in America. Throughout the six years of the work of this commission, he has been one of the strongest and most active participants in the common effort to save intercollegiate sports in our country. This involvement came quite naturally because years before, in a dramatic meeting of the NCAA in Miami, it was his voice—almost alone—that caused the enactment of Proposition 48, the first really substantive academic standard in athletics in modern times. He was a forceful leader and helped draft the report of the Knight Commission that established clear academic requirements and reinforced university control over sports, repositioning the president and chancellor as the authoritative voice in campus athletics. He worked to establish financial credibility in the expenditure of funds in athletic programs and the certification requirements all institutions must now meet to insure compliance with standards enacted. Now as the Knight Commission's tenure ends, LeRoy Walker is a part of the effort at restructuring the NCAA to reflect these decisions.

LeRoy Walker, like other thoughtful Americans, is deeply concerned about the status of athletics in America today. Not only is he concerned about preserving sports or the lessons participants always learn and carry through life but he is distressed over the greed and manipulation that money brings to intercollegiate sports. Recently, in talking with all the high school athletic directors in North Carolina, he urged them to work hard to change the perception that athletics are merely entertainment.

"We must understand how to get the value system that develops and stays with us," Walker said. "These values are developed in high school, not college or beyond, and these values are the true work of sports." He observed that professional sports provide nothing beyond entertainment and regrettably have become the ultimate experience of many, and he pointed out that professionalism threatens to gain a stranglehold on all levels of competition, especially high school competition, and this must be

prevented at all costs. "Some people look at the high school as a feeder system for the colleges and the college program as a feeder system for the professionals," Walker said; "That should not be the case."

But let's go back to that conversation in the president's office in the early '80s. Why would LeRoy Walker be chosen to take his place with James Shepherd, Alphonso Elder, Samuel Massey, and Albert Whiting, his predecessors, to lead North Carolina Central? The answer was clear in the conversation that afternoon. Here are some of the things he had to say:

> We have to separate the definitions of disadvantaged and under-prepared students. Our brightest students meet all the eligibility of disadvantaged. I am disturbed by the revolving door through which freshmen enter and then quickly depart. We ought to serve well all the citizens of our state and of this area and especially students who cannot afford the costs at or who cannot meet entrance requirements of other institutions.

And then again: "We need to change the mix of our students," he said, expressing the thought that North Carolina Central would benefit if more better-than-average students enrolled. His guiding principle as chancellor: Excellence without excuses. He often reminded us of a saying of Winston Churchill to which he certainly subscribed: "Sometimes it's not enough to do your best; sometimes you must do what is required."

Just how well did he succeed as chancellor? He's a man who can talk and has talked with kings and with the man on the street, and that is very important. "He can relate to everybody," so spoke the chairman of the Board of Trustees. A chairman of an academic department said, "He doesn't waste time in words or in behavior. If he sees the need, he's right on it." And the president of the student body said, "His coming here has meant a whole lot to the academic climate of North Carolina Central."

He came to stay about a year and he did not leave until the job was done. In the interim, he created a new Board of Visitors to help guide the institution; he set about to give life and meaning to the development program and brought substantial moneys to the campus; he redirected the admissions policies of the institution and spent a good deal of time straightening out financial aid to students and speeding up scholarship fund distributions. He added a General College Studies Program and a Bachelor of Computer Science degree. A major new physical education complex was dedicated, and this facility was at a later time named for him. He moved the School of Library Science to master's level education. But his greatest gift was that of a renewed self-confidence, an enormous sense of pride, and a determination to do all that was required to keep North Carolina Central University in the meanstream of higher education in North Carolina. The

trustees made his appointment as chancellor permanent as a tribute to and recognition of his leadership. When he retired in 1986, the *Durham Sun* devoted a special eight-page section to "LeRoy Walker, Athlete and Educator."

So it has been for more than a half century that this adopted Carolinian has done his utmost to instill the qualities of honor, courage, excellence, giving one's best, and never-ceasing efforts to achieve the highest level of performance. It is this sense of character and integrity that has so marked the man all of his life. He has been recognized the world over as this kind of leader, holding more than a dozen honorary degrees, the highest tributes that his home community can pay, the North Carolina Distinguished Citizens Award, the Olympic Hall of Fame Award, the Robert Giegengack Award (the highest recognition paid in United States track and field competition), and the Olympic Order (the highest honor of the International Olympic Committee). He has been National Coach of the Year; he is in the Hall of Fame in every sports activity one might identify; and, particularly significant, he holds the Award of the President's Council on Physical Fitness in Sports. These are but samples of the respect with which he is held in America and abroad.

Yet these recognitions, so splendid and satisfying, are not, in the end, what LeRoy Walker would say is the greatest consequence of his life. This is what he has said: "I think what has happened to young men whose lives I've touched is more gratifying than any other accomplishment of my life."

George Bernard Shaw is alleged to have written:

> I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

LeRoy Walker has held high that splendid torch for three score and ten in a brilliant career grown rich and deep in service to all humanity and especially the youth of the world.

I have the high honor of raising the cup of the North Caroliniana Society on your behalf in a unanimous affirmation of our pride, joy, and gratitude to you, our cherished friend, Leroy Tashreau Walker, Sr.

Acceptance

By LeRoy T. Walker

Thank you very much, President Friday. As I listened to your comments, I could not help remembering a similar occasion when I sat on the dias between a well-known speaker and his wife as he was being introduced in a glowing manner. As the introducer recited his accomplishments, the guest leaned across me and asked his wife, "Dear, how many truly great men do you think there are in America?" Without hesitation she answered, "I don't know, but it is one less than you think."

This is indeed a unique occasion for me, and I can't resist sharing with you, Bill, this note that, as you were talking, my granddaughter Melodie slipped to me. It reads, "Don't let this go to your head." Thank you, Melodie, I will remember that.

I suppose the level of any award and the appreciation of its quality is based on its previous recipients. An inner glow came over me as I heard the names of those who have received the North Caroliniana Society Award, like the Kenans, Fridays, and Semanses, and I know that, regardless of merit, I am in awfully good company. I feel a deep sense of pride in being honored, and particularly in my own home environment where people fully understand me and my insufficiencies. And yet, you have singled me out to be the recipient of something as distinguished as this award.

I think that it is a distinct honor primarily as a tribute to so many who have contributed so much to whatever I may have accomplished. You made reference, Bill, to my mother, who could speak volumes with her eyes; and, yes, she did tell me "Whatever task is given to you, try to do it the best you can" and "Don't let the environment decide what you can be or what you can become." And you paraphrased Winston Churchill: "Sometimes it is not enough to do your best; you have to do what is required."

I share this honor with my colleagues at the university and also at Olympic House, on whose shoulders I stood so many times in order to look out farther on the horizon to decide what course of action I should pursue, because I know that leaders often succeed upon the effort of others.

I believe that if leaders are reasonably bright, they will surround themselves with as many good "others" as possible. What Bill Friday has said about my labor of love results from some of the things that I gained from my family and my colleagues, who have helped me understand life.

Whatever I have achieved for the state of North Carolina—the place that I adopted and from which I refused to move when they asked me to come to Colorado Springs—I credit to ideas that others shared with me. I believe that—

Life is a challenge, and I had to meet it.
Life is a gift, and it was mine to accept.
Life is an adventure, and I should dare it.
Life is a duty, and I should perform it.
Life is an opportunity, and I should take it.
Life is a journey, and I should complete it.
Life is also a promise, and I should fulfill it.
Life is a goal, and it is my responsiblity to achieve it.
Life is a puzzle, and it is my responsiblity to solve it.
Life is also love, and I should love it.

And so I want to pay special tribute to the society for giving me the opportunity to publicly thank so many individuals, many of whom are seated here tonight, who have helped me shape my philosophy of life and helped me achieve whatever Bill Friday credits me with. I also want to pay special tribute to the society for giving me an opportunity to thank that group upon whose shoulders I stood and still stand. And to those friends here who have made the difference—if LeRoy Walker has achieved anything for the state of North Carolina, that is more important to me than what I may have achieved for myself—I am extremely grateful. And I promise you, Melodie, that I will not let it go to my head.

[Vice-President William S. Powell introduced Justice Whichard as follows: "All week we have known that the illness of our colleague Lyle Sitterson would prevent his appearance this evening to accept our North Caroliniana Society Award, but the family requested that the ceremony go on. Following his death this morning, his widow, Nancy, called to suggest that we make this evening a celebration of his life. And so it shall be. His sons and daughter and other family members are present, and we regret that Nancy was simply too exhausted to join us. A videotape of the entire proceedings will be presented to her.

"It was at the specific request of Chancellor Sitterson that Associate Justice Willis P. Whichard of the North Carolina Supreme Court joins us in recalling some of the contributions of Dr. Sitterson to North Carolina and the University. As an undergraduate in Chapel Hill in the early 1960s the youthful Whichard became acquainted with this outstanding history professor.

"Judge Whichard was born and reared in Durham and was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina in 1962. He received his law degree here in 1965. From the University of Virginia he earned degrees of master of law 1984 and doctor of juridical science in 1994. His dissertation for the latter degree was on the career of James Iredell, a North Carolinian named to the United States Supreme Court by President George Washington.

"Justice Whichard, himself now in the midst of a distinguished legal career, was first a law clerk to Chief Justice William H. Bobbitt and then a practicing attorney for nearly fifteen years. His own record of service in North Carolina is most impressive, including four years in the House of Representatives and six in the Senate; for six years he was a judge of the North Carolina Appellate Court and its successor the Court of Appeals, and he has been an associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina since 1986.

"He has served as president of the UNC Law Alumni Association and of the General Alumni Association, and at the present time he is president of both the North Caroliniana Society and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. A skilled researcher and writer, a popular speaker, a kindly, gentle, and friendly person, he clearly is most qualified to appreciate and recount the good work of his and our late colleague, Joseph Carlyle Sitterson."]

Joseph Carlyle Sitterson

by Willis P. Whichard

In 1830, when the University of North Carolina had been open for classes for thirty-five years, Thomas Ruffin wrote members of the General Assembly urging greater financial assistance to the institution: "In North Carolina," he said, "every person who is old enough to remember when the University was not, must have observed and cannot but testify to the effects[,] most salutary, of its establishment. . . ." Ruffin, whom Roscoe Pound would call one of the ten greatest American common law judges, went on to cite the many alumni who were filling posts of honor and distinction in the state and country, as well as their infusion of information throughout the citizenry.

Almost a century later, a young man from Kinston entered the university and commenced a process that made Ruffin's theme the dominant one of his long and highly productive life. With brief exceptions—a year as director of the North Carolina Hall of History, six months of army service in World War II, and two years as a policy analyst to the War Production Board, writing its history—his life was rather singularly devoted to the university and, through it, to the state of North Carolina.

When Joseph Carlyle Sitterson made the then long trip from Kinston to Chapel Hill in the fall of 1927, he could not have guessed that sixty years later a major university building would bear his name. Undoubtedly, like his peers, he was focused, instead, on the rigors of the freshman curriculum and the numerous campus activities that competed for his attention. But he stayed to become a part of the place, and the place became a part of him. He received from it one of every degree offered in his field, American history: an A.B. in 1931, an M.A. in 1932, and a Ph.D. in 1937.

His first teaching assignment was at the Georgia Military Academy. Soon, though, he was back in his beloved Chapel Hill, where for almost half a century students enjoyed and benefitted from his scintillating classroom presence. This is the capacity in which I first knew him. I am

pleased to say that I made an "A" in his course in twentieth-century American history. Somehow the question of grades arose in a conversation with him many years later, and I commented that he had "given" me an "A" in his course. Lyle, for all his good qualities, could be a bit gruff at times, and he responded in that manner: "Bill, I didn't *give* you an 'A'. If you got an 'A' from me, you earned it, because I didn't give many 'A's in my courses." I did earn it, but that is more a tribute to his teaching than to my scholarship, for I did not make an "A" when teachers did not inspire me to work hard and learn well. Lyle did that for me and for many others. I once told him I thought it a shame that he had gone into administration, not because he was incapable as an administrator, but because in the process the university had lost one of its greatest teachers. He again rather gruffly responded that I should not worry about that—that he had never quit teaching the course I had taken, not even when he was chancellor.

In 1954 students selected Lyle Sitterson as one of ten oustanding university professors. I would venture to guess that if a top-ten list for this century were compiled, he would be on it. I would not want to select my single favorite professor at the university, but Lyle was without question in my top three.

While teaching was his passion, it did not preclude a host of other activities. He wrote two major books—*The Secession Movement in North Carolina* and *Sugar Country: The Cane Sugar Industry in the South, 1753-1950*—while editing or contributing chapters to many others. He published numerous articles in historical reviews, journals, encyclopedias, and newspapers; and he reviewed several books. He was an officer of the Southern Historical Association and a member of the board of editors of the *Journal of Southern History*. He participated extensively in historical association programs, and he served on university committees and in *ad hoc* administrative assignments too numerous to list. He was the only person ever to serve simultaneously as dean of both the College of Arts and Sciences and of the General College.

Still, he considered himself "primarily a teacher." "Teaching is my first love," he said upon becoming acting chancellor of the university, "and I do not plan to give it up." Six years later, when he indicated to President Friday his desire to leave the chancellorship, it was because of a perceived need to "give full time to my own scholarly field if I am to stay abreast of changing knowledge and thereby be an effective teacher-scholar for the remainder of my academic career."

The truth is, he indeed never ceased to teach. He simply moved to a larger classroom—the state of North Carolina—and a more focused

subject—the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—rather than American history at large. Early in his chancellorship he noted that the most self-evident thing about him was his eastern North Carolina roots. "Perhaps the only other important influence on my life," he said, "has been the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill."

He was a product, then, of the state and its university, and the teacher deep within him aspired to make the two better acquainted with one another. Immediately upon becoming the acting chancellor, he said he hoped a "dialogue—hopefully unemotional—can be established between the university and the state community" because the university has "got to talk more to the state, be more visible." When the word "acting" was dropped from his title, he reiterated this concern. There are persons in the state, he said, "who unfortunately neither understand nor appreciate what the University of North Carolina is, what it means to its students, and what it means to the entire community of North Carolina."

He intended to change that, and because of his deep roots in both the state and the university, expectations were high. News accounts described him as "a disciple of hope and glory." A North Carolina editor opined: "We have reason to expect from him a high quality of leadership on the campus—and determination to have the mission of the university understood and endorsed by the people across the state who give it their support through taxation and other means." A university trustee assured the public that the new chancellor would "paint a true picture of the university."

And paint a true picture he did, as he went about finding ways and means to make the dialogue between the university and the state community continuous, constructive, and ever more meaningful. His extensive background in scholarship, administration, and academic associations had given him a broad and deep perspective on the university and its special character. While he was indeed a product of eastern North Carolina, there was nothing local or provincial about his record, his interests, or his outlook. And while he involved others, the new chancellor himself was the foremost definer of the university and its mission. Early in his chancellorship, for example, he defined a university to a group of parents as

> a place where genuine intellectual inquiry is underway, where new discoveries in all fields of knowledge are being made, where many facts formerly accepted as truths are being demonstrated to be no longer truths. It is a place where respected institutions and long cherished mores come under criticism. . . . Finally, a university is constantly looking to the future. While it studies the past, it seeks to bring the

knowlege of the past to help shape the hopes and dreams of the future.

The new chancellor's goals for the institution were a constantly increasing role in the discovery and dissemination of knowledge, greater stature for the university in the whole academic community, and an impact upon the life of the state in all of the university's programs. He saw in the education of those thousands of people who came to Chapel Hill annually a stimulating effect upon the life of communities throughout the state, and he took that message to many of those communities himself.

Egalitarian in his outlook, Lyle Sitterson saw the university as the principal social instrument for realization of the concept that the essence of the American spirit is based on the assumption that it is possible for the common man to acquire the tastes and values of the best. And he was concerned about the effects of a large institution on the individual student. "The spirit, quality, and character of the individual," he said, "have been the basis for the spirit, quality, and character of the university. . . ." "We now face the real challenge," he continued: "Are we going to be altered so as to lose the character of our university community?" He answered with a resounding "no" and took steps such as establishing independent study and grouping students in relatively small numbers in residence halls to assure some interpersonal relationships.

There was, of course, more to the position of chancellor than articulating the university to the state. "The man in the job," wrote one especially perceptive editorialist, "needs the sensitivity of a razorback hog, the temperament of a Harnett County mule, and the agility of a mountain goat, not to mention infinite wisdom, intellectual capacity, the potential for rapport with certifiable freaks, and a sure political touch." Lyle Sitterson was blessed with all of these traits as he presided over a growing university in a turbulent period of its history.

It was a period characterized socially and politically by a speaker ban law, marches and petitions, anti-war and anti-draft demonstrations, peace rallies, class boycotts, and a three-week strike protesting United States involvement in Cambodia. The university's trustees would say: "He effectively defused situations that could have literally blown this campus apart. Probably no chancellor . . . faced as many potentially paralyzing situations as did Lyle Sitterson. Thankfully for all of us, he prevailed."

It was a period characterized physically by tremendous growth, with the addition to the campus of Hinton James Dorm, Davie Hall, the Frank Porter Graham Student Union, the Robert B. House Undergraduate Library, the Student Stores Building, a new Law School Building, a Dental Sciences Research Wing, Greenlaw Hall, the new Venable Annex, the Carrington Nursing School, a Health Sciences Library, a new Medical

School, and several additions to North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

Shakespeare said all the world is a stage, and each man in his time plays many parts. That was certainly true with Lyle Sitterson. In addition to his academic duties, he was a family man and a churchman. He was an especially avid follower of UNC athletics. A colleague said of him: "He's a good man to sit beside at football games, and there is nothing erudite or scholarly in the unabashed enthusiasm with which he supports the Tar Heels. He not only tells you what the last play should have accomplished, but what the next play is going to be."

Still, Lyle is best known for his effective leadership of UNC-Chapel Hill during a turbulent period of student unrest and demonstrations and rapid growth. He will be remembered primarily as symbolizing the quintessence of the spirit and the vision which are at the heart of the great tradition of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. And he will be thought of as a twentieth-century man who fit Matthew Arnold's conception of Sophocles as one who "saw life steadily and saw it whole."

At an appreciation dinner for Lyle and Nancy when Lyle left the chancellorship, President William Friday said,

> They take their rightful place in that noble succession of sons and daughters of this university who have made this place what it is today—a distinguished and important center of learning. [Lyle] has applied his strength, intelligence and energy to the total movement of the university toward greater excellence in all its endeavors. The University of North Carolina is a better place because [Lyle and Nancy] live[d] and work[ed] and share[d] [their] love and affection among us all.

A newspaper editorialized, contemporareously:

> If you look around the country, you will readily see that mere survival as a university president or chancellor is a triumph these days. Carlyle Sitterson not only survived the ordeal, but he brought the university through it with comparative peace and order, presiding with aplomb over galloping growth and great strides forward in institutional excellence.

When the General Alumni Association presented Lyle its Distinguished Service Medal, it cited him as "blessed with judgment, patience and perspective" during a career that included being chancellor "for six of the stormiest years in Carolina history."

A faculty resolution upon the announcement of his impending retirement noted that he left the university not only sounder, stronger, more flexible and responsible structurally than he found it, but also having made important advances in its primary mission.

A letter recommending that the new computer sciences building be named for him deemed that an appropriate honor for "one of the most distinguished careers enjoyed by anyone in the university family during the last fifty years."

Almost four decades after his migration from Kinston to Chapel Hill, this man who was easy to talk to, thoughtful and direct in his responses, and profound in his judgments, said in his inaugural address as chancellor: "The Americans of the late eighteenth century believed profoundly in the capacity of human reason to apply knowledge to the affairs of man, to the improvement of the human condition." He shared that belief and shaped both his own life and an institution by it. It is primarily for this reason that the North Caroliniana Society honors itself by honoring this noble and distinguished son of the state and the university with the North Caroliniana Society Award.

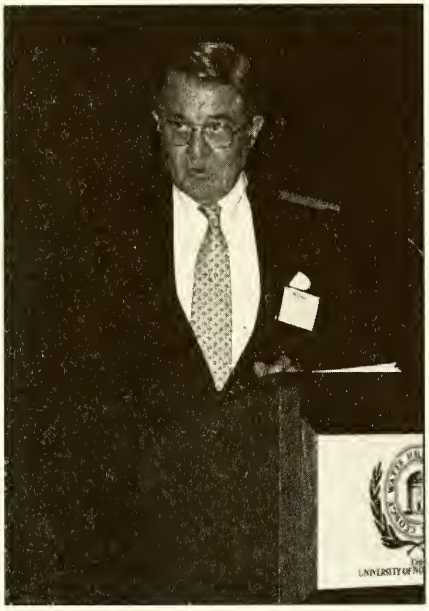
Simon, will you come forward and accept the award on behalf of your brother.

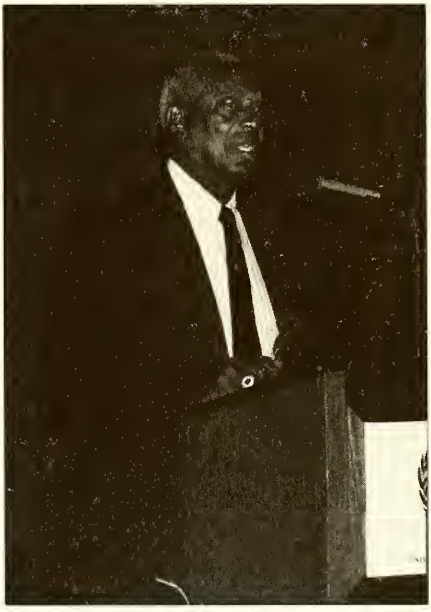
Acceptance

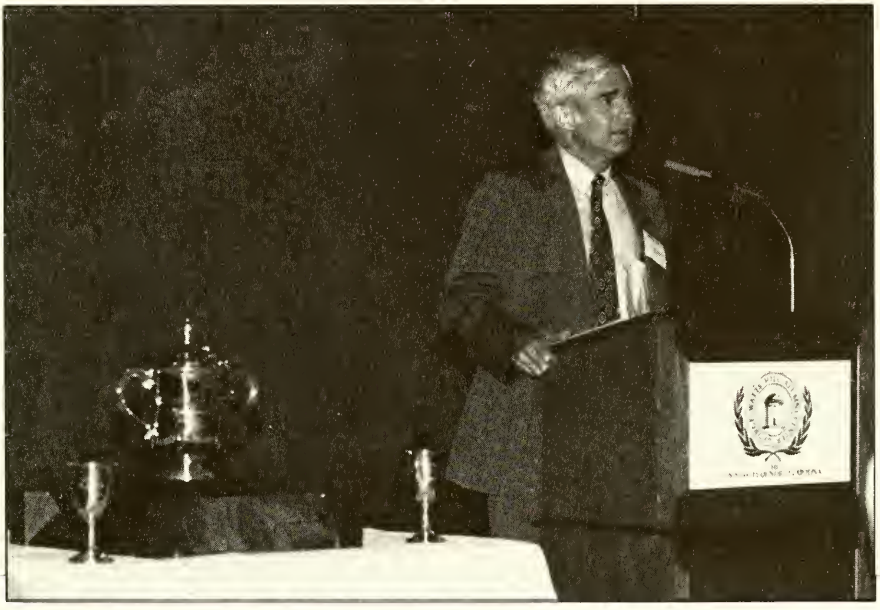
By Simon C. Sitterson, Jr.

It is a privilege for me to be here with you tonight to honor recipients of the North Caroliniana Society Award. Lyle had been eagerly looking forward to receiving this award and being at this banquet with you. It is fitting that Lyle was able to keep fighting until this morning, the day you chose to honor him. As a student, professor, and chancellor at Carolina, he was dedicated to the promotion and preservation of North Carolina's heritage. It is indeed an honor for me to accept this prestigious award on behalf of Lyle and his family. Thank you very much.

In Memoriam
JOSEPH CARLYLE SITTERSON
17 January 1911–19 May 1995







President Emeritus William C. Friday gave the presentation address for recipient LeRoy T. Walker, who (top right) accepted the award. At bottom, President Willis P. Whichard pays tribute to the late J. Carlyle Sitterson. The award bowl and the individual goblets sit at left. (All photos by Jerry W. Cotten, North Carolina Collection.)

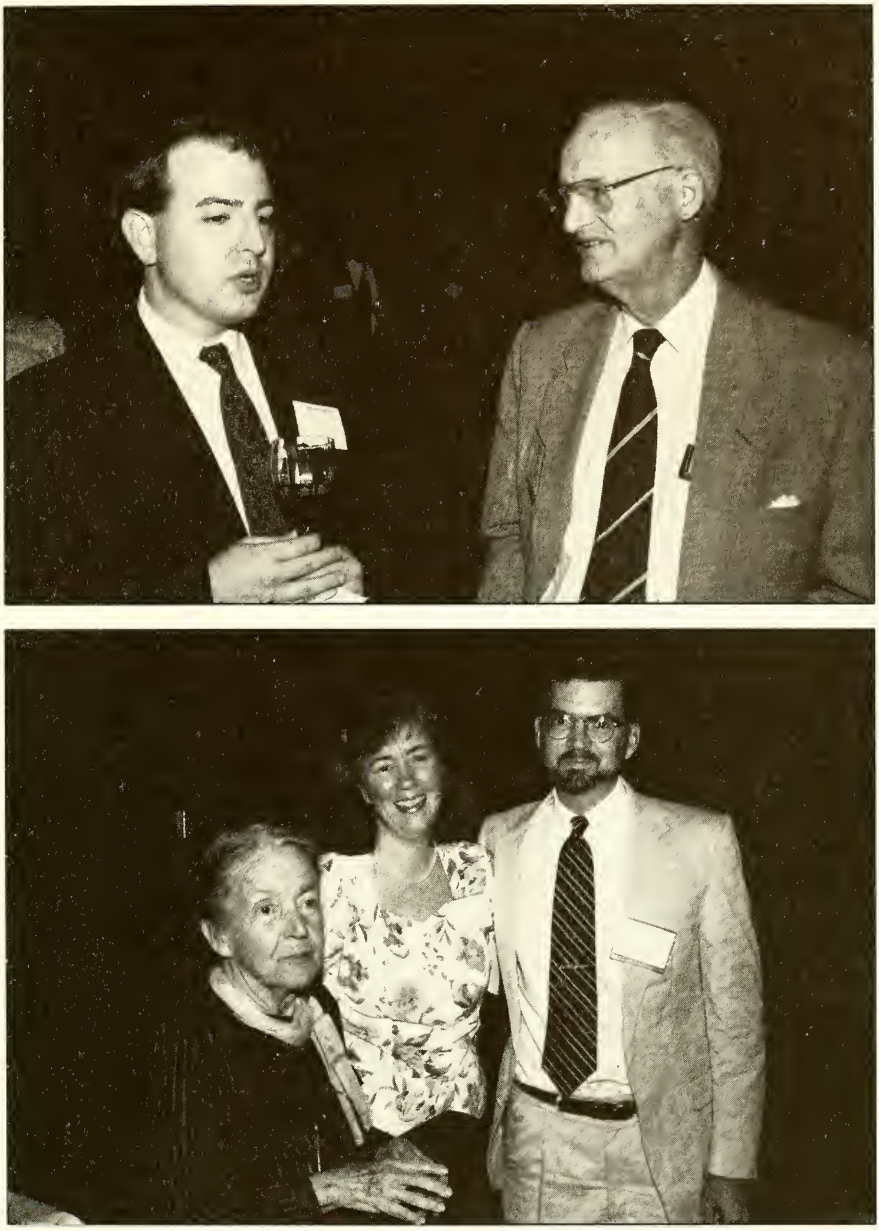
Simon C. Sitterson, Jr., (top right) accepted the award on behalf of his late brother, J. Carlyle Sitterson, who died the morning before the award was to be presented. At bottom, the former mayor of Kinston is shown with LeRoy T. Walker, the other recipient.

Top, LeRoy T. Walker, Jr., Justice Whichard, Melodie Walker (the recipient's granddaughter), the recipient, and Judy Walker (daughter-in-law). At bottom, Dr. Walker and Mary Singletary.

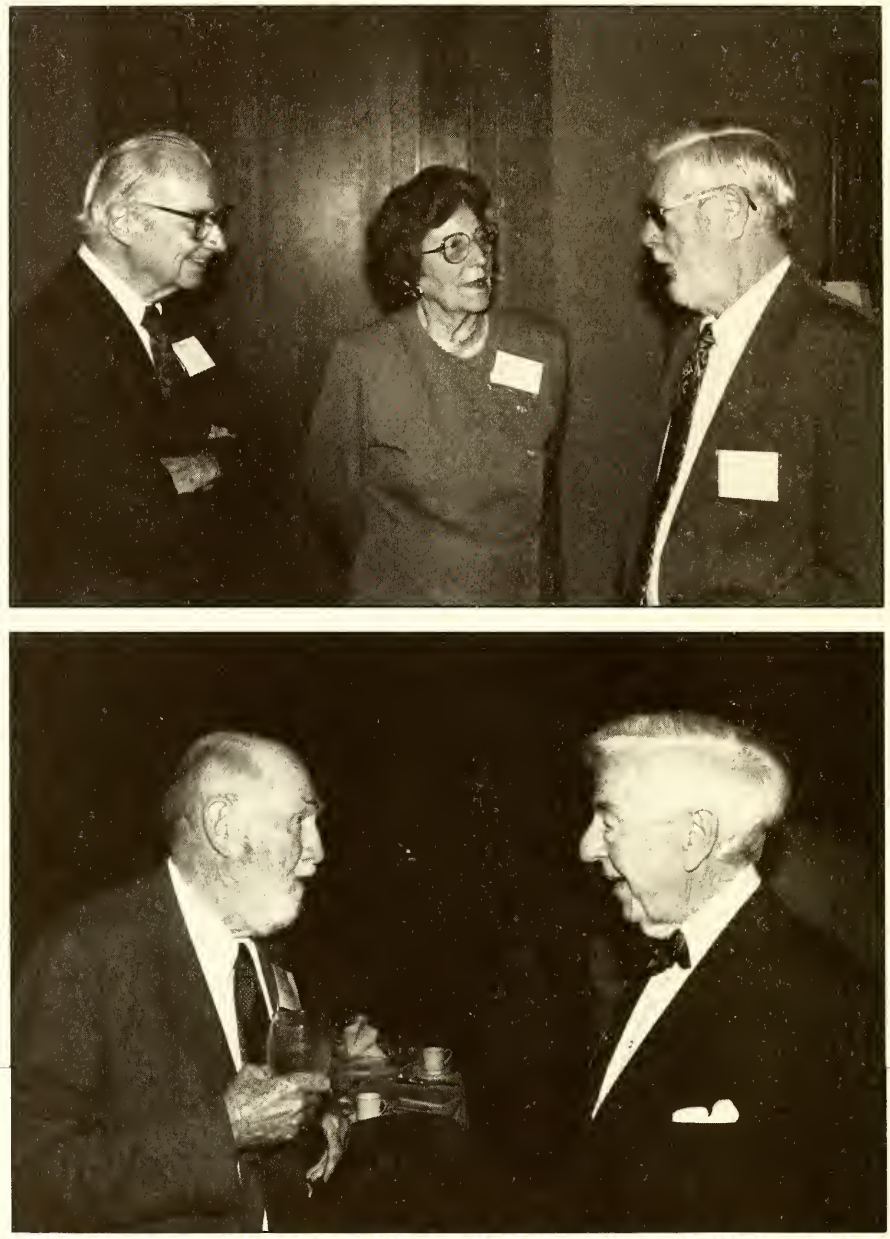
Dr. Walker greets longtime friends Nancy and Charlie Gaddy at top and Tom Kenan at bottom.

Top, William S. Price, Jr., Senator Marie Watters Colton, and George B. Tindall; at bottom, Dr. and Mrs. W. Keats Sparrow, Marie Parker, and Justice Whichard.

Top, Tom Kenan and Dana Borden Lacy; bottom, Ferebee and Diane Taylor and Charlotte and Charles Shaffer.



Top, Martin H. Brinkley and former chancellor Christopher C. Fordham III; bottom, artist Sarah Blakeslee Speight and Drew and Maury York of East Carolina University.



Top, Bill and Mary Lib Finlator and C. B. (Chick) Squire; bottom, Ed Hodges and Jim Semans.

Top, John and Ann Sanders and David Moltke-Hansen; bottom, Marcella Grendler, Melissa Bullard, and Jim Leloudis.

Top, Ron Holland and Jerry Cashion; bottom, Keith and Juliana Longiotti and Tracy and John Ansley.

Prior to the award dinner, a portrait of H. G. Jones was given to the North Carolina Collection by the Society. Artist Sarah Blakeslee Speight, Curator Bob Anthony, and President Whichard look on. At bottom, the artist chats with Ida Friday.

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